

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 2-8 and 15-17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations from previous claims 3 and 5.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 1 instead of canceled claim 5.

Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the specification as containing an informality. The specification has been amended to correct the typographical errors. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the objections.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 1ST PARAGRAPH REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

These claims have been canceled rendering these rejections moot.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2ND PARAGRAPH REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Regarding claim 13, since claim 2 has been canceled; the rejection based on the similarity of claims 2 and 13 is now moot.

Regarding the rejection of claim 14, the antecedent basis issue has been corrected.

Therefore, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection.

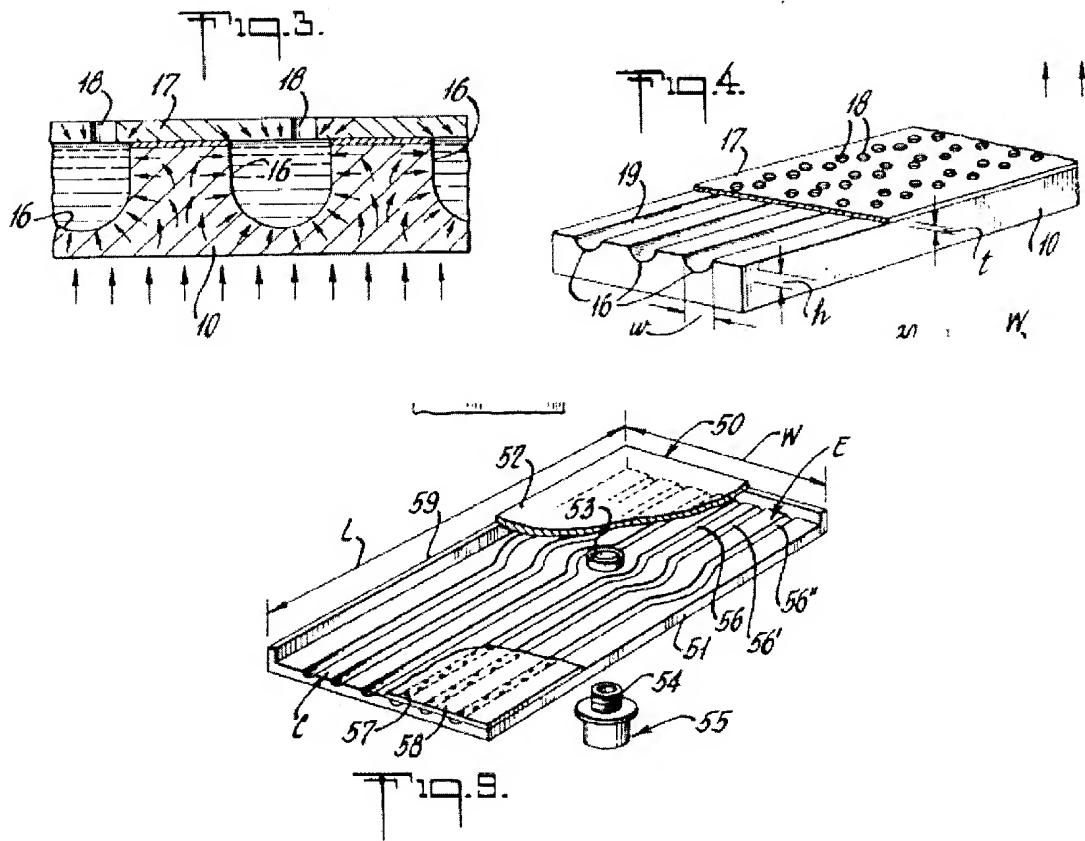
35 U.S.C. § 102 REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 8-10, 12-14 and 17-18 as being anticipated by Peck (U.S. Patent No. 4,021,816). Since claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of

claims 3 and 5, and claims 2, 8 and 17 have been canceled, all of these rejections are moot except for the rejection of claim 14. Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 14 because Peck fails to disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. Specifically, Peck fails to disclose or suggest at least the following limitations:

wherein a clearance between the plurality of flow paths on the evaporating part side is wider than that on the condensing part side in connection with that the width of the wick is wider on the evaporating part side.

Figures 3, 4 and 9 of Peck are shown below. As can be seen, the widths of both the evaporating part (E) and condensing part (C) are the same.



The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 8-10, 12-13 and 17-18 as being anticipated by Bilinski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,811,493). Since claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 3 and 5, and claims 2, 8 and 17 have been canceled, all of these rejections are moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peck in view of Eastman. Since claim 1, from which claim 11 depends, has been amended to include the limitations of claims 3 and 5, this rejection is moot because Peck fails to disclose or suggest at least the limitations of claims 3 and 5. In addition, one of skill in the art would not modify the Peck to include a porous sintered wick because the integral, non-woven, foraminated-plate screen wick construction is a key feature of the Peck device. Col. 2, lines 35-44.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3-5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peck in view of Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,210,042). Since claim 7 has been canceled, this rejection is moot. Regarding the rejection of claim 1 (which now contains the limitations of claims 3 and 5) none of the cited references discloses or suggest at least the following limitations:

wherein a clearance between the thin slits in the width direction of the porous body sheet changes flexibly in accordance with the width of the porous body sheet

The Examiner alleges that item 17 in Peck is the porous sheet. There is no disclosure or suggestion of the porous sheet has different widths, and that even if it did, that the clearance between slits would change flexibly.

The Examiner has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bilinski et al. in view of Eastman. Regarding the rejection of claim 11 (which now contains the limitations of claims 3 and 5) none of the cited references discloses or suggest at least the following limitations:

wherein a clearance between the thin slits in the width direction of the porous body sheet changes flexibly in accordance with the width of the porous body sheet

The Examiner alleges that item 26 in Bilinski is the porous sheet. There is no disclosure or suggestion of the porous sheet has different widths, and that even if it did, that the clearance between slits would change flexibly.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3-5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bilinski et al. in view of Wang et al. As mentioned above, none of the cited references discloses or suggest at least the following limitations:

wherein a clearance between the thin slits in the width direction of the porous body sheet changes flexibly in accordance with the width of the porous body sheet

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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